

Simplified Surficial Geologic Map of Maine

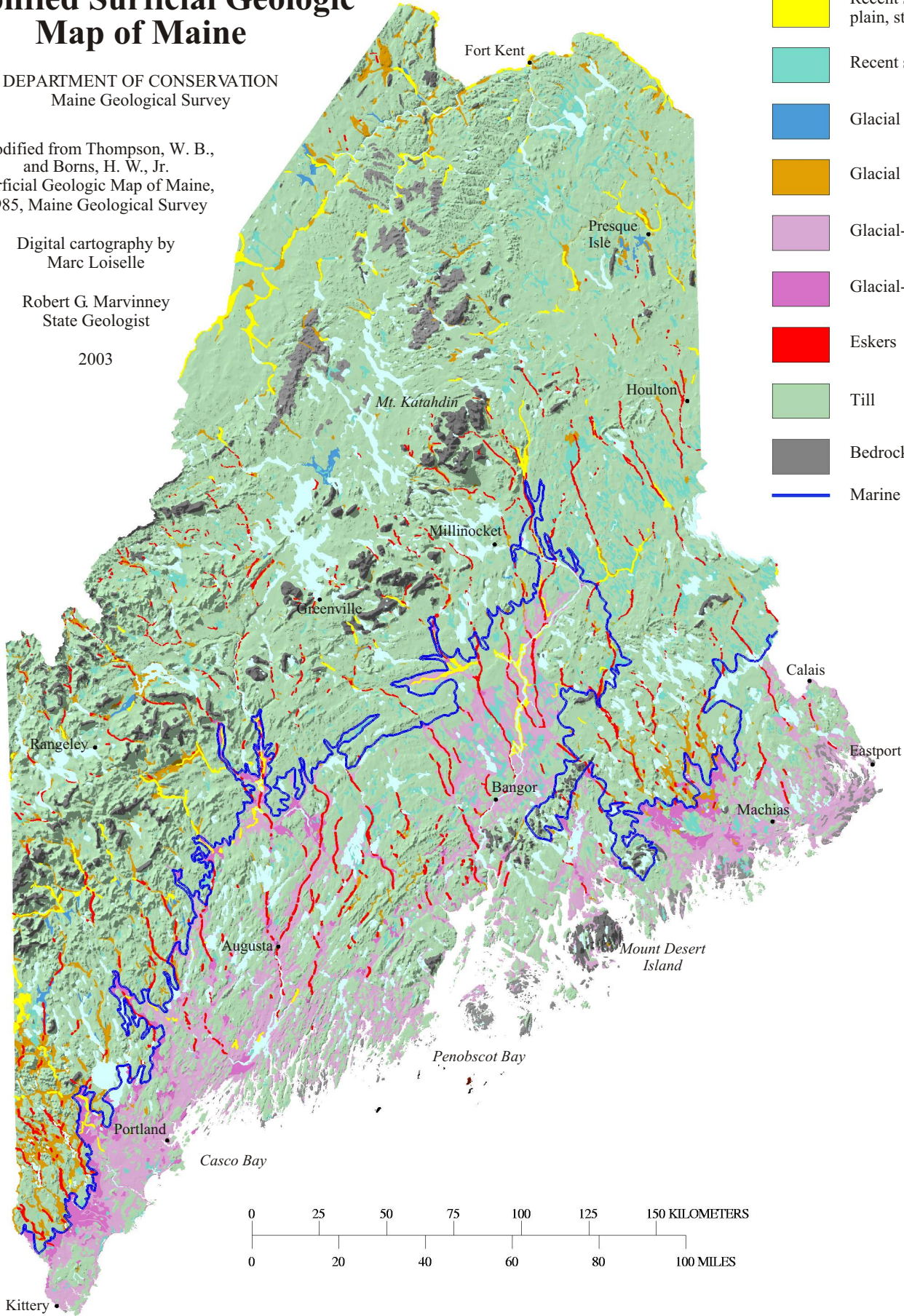
DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION
Maine Geological Survey

Modified from Thompson, W. B.,
and Borns, H. W., Jr.
Surficial Geologic Map of Maine,
1985, Maine Geological Survey

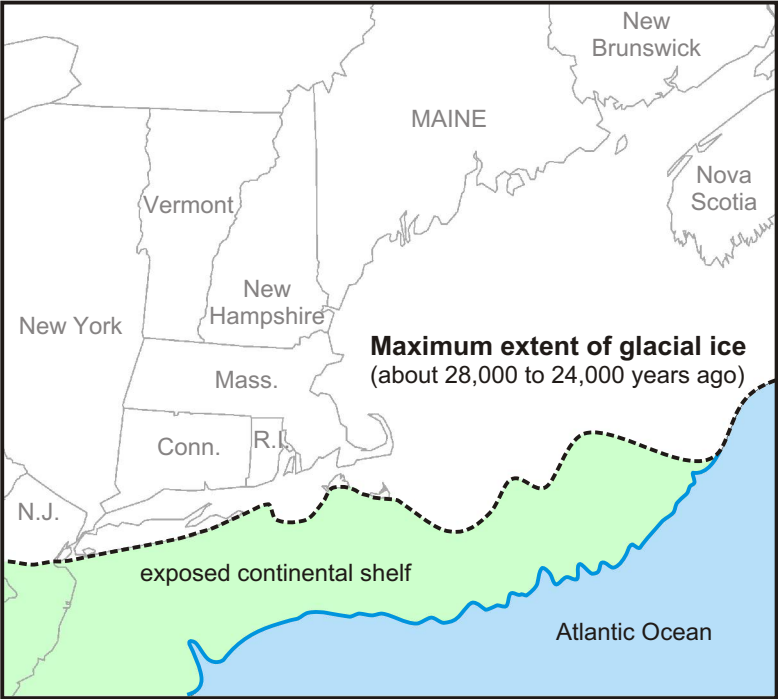
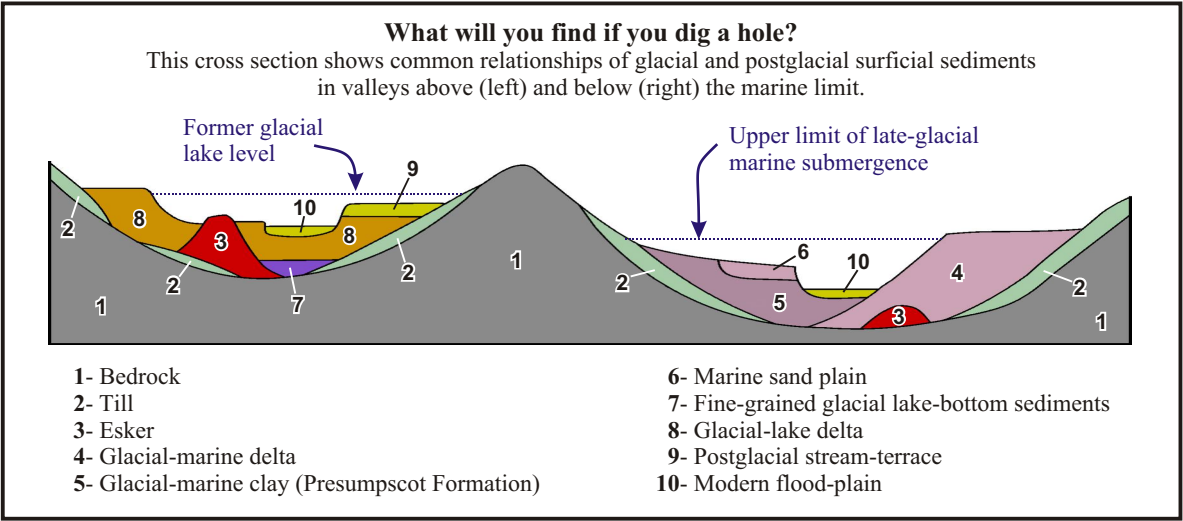
Digital cartography by
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2003

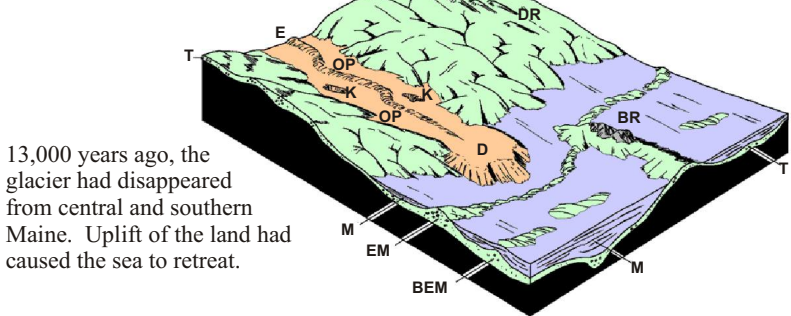
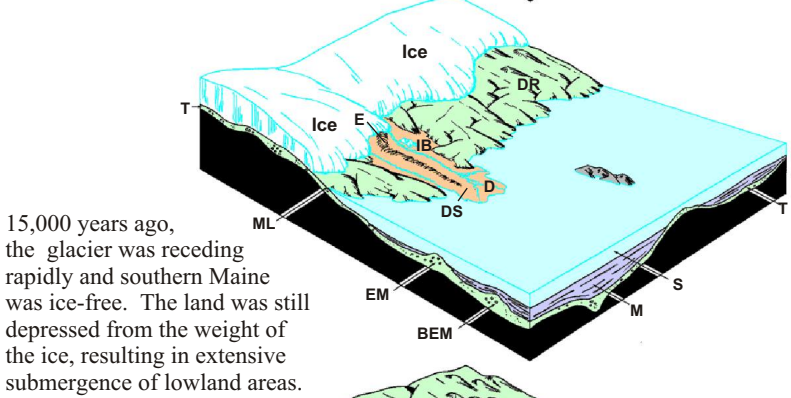
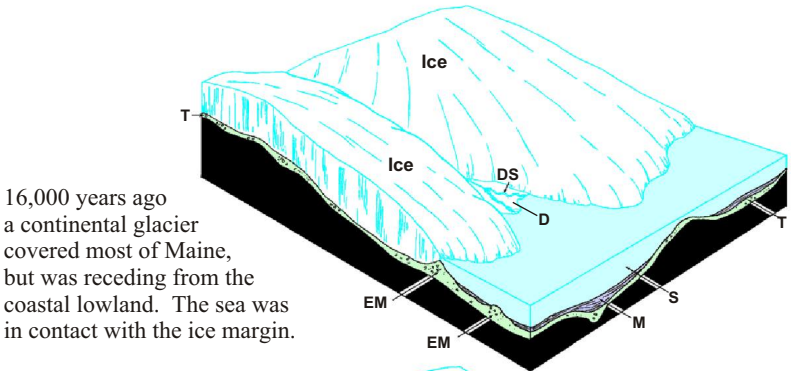


- Recent stream alluvium, including flood plain, stream terrace, and alluvial fan deposits.
- Recent swamp, marsh, and bog deposits
- Glacial lake-bottom deposits
- Glacial stream deposits and glacial-lake deltas.
- Glacial-marine deposits (silt and clay)
- Glacial-marine deposits (sand and gravel)
- Eskers
- Till
- Bedrock and thin glacial sediment cover
- Marine limit



The color map (at left) shows the principal types of sedimentary materials that cover the bedrock in Maine. Most of these materials were left by glacial ice during the Pleistocene "ice age". One of Maine's distinctive glacial legacies is the blanket of marine sediments across southern portions of the state. The last continental ice sheet was so thick and heavy that it depressed the Earth's bedrock crust several hundred feet. Even though global sea level was lower in glacial times, this depression enabled the sea to flood low areas of southern Maine as the glacier receded. The dark-blue line on the map shows the inland limit of marine submergence. Numerous islands existed in the flooded area but are not shown here. The recession of the ice sheet caused the land to rise above the ocean, and a wide variety of sedimentary deposits were released from the melting glacier. These include long esker ridges of sand and gravel formed in tunnels under the ice, shown by the red lines on the map. Maine's eskers and emerged marine features are world-class examples of glacial deposits.

Glacial Recession in Southern Maine



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|--------------------------|----------------------|--------------------|
| BEM - buried end moraine | E - esker | ML - marine limit |
| BR - bedrock ridge | EM - end moraine | OP - outwash plain |
| D - delta | IB - ice block | S - seawater |
| DR - drumlins | K - kettle | T - till |
| DS - distributary stream | M - marine sediments | |